(5) To ensure regulation of ground water in a scientific manner, the Government of India had prepared a Model Bill in 1970, subsequently revised in 1992 and circulated to the States for enacting legislation.

(6) National Water Development Agency has formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development, which envisages inter-linking between various Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

(7) The Government has taken up Water Resources Consolidation Projects with the assistance of World Bank to improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country and early completion of on going schemes.

(8) Union Government has launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance to the State Governments for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion or mega projects which are beyond their resources capability.

Seismic survey for identifying locations of oil

*236. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 197 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 2000 and state:

(a) whether any seismic survey to identify locations of oil have been conducted and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any blocks have been identifed with good crude contents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Exploration of hydrocarbons is an on-going process consisting of seismic data acquistion, processing, interpretation, prospect identification and drilling. Exploration process begins with geological and geophysical surveys. The areas thus identified are assessed for likely hydrocarbon potential through various methods of resource appraisal; favourable results lead to the next state of exploration during which targets are decided and prospects identified. Each prospect thus demarcated is evaluated techo-economically and the desirability or otherwise of drilling is spelt out and priority accorded.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) are continuing exploratory activities in the country. Since inception upto 1.4.2000, ONGC has acquired 3,11,485 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D (two dimensional) as also 6,960 Standard Square Kilometer (SSK), 39,183 GLK and 67 Square Kilometre (Sq. Km). of 3D (three dimensional) seismic data in onland areas, and 5,15,843 Line Kilometre (LK) of 2D as also 4,64,361 LK of 3D seismic data in offshore areas. During the same period, OIL has acquired 38,130 GLK of 2D as also 1,377 Sq.Km of 3D seismic data in onland areas; and 22,810 LK of 2D/ 3D seismic data in offshore areas.

So far as private/joint venture companies are concerned, till 1.4.2000, 3,311 GLK of 2D as also 37 Sq.Km, of 3D seismic data in onland areas and 6,555 LK of 2D as also 3,783 Sq. Km. of 3D seismic data in off shore have been acquired in various exploration blocks and discovered field.

As a result of various exploratory efforts expended in the country, approximately 6.8 Billion tonnes of inplace Oil plus oil equivalent of gas (O +OEG), as on 1.4.2000. has been established in around 320 fields/ structures in onland and offshore areas of the contry.

Taxes on Petro-Products

†*237. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEIUM AND NATIURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of petrol and diesel increase due to taxes in the various metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) if so, what are the rates of all taxes being levied on petrol and diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai;

(c) the percentage of increase in the prices due to these; and

(d) whether the rates of these taxes will be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of sales tax etc. levied by the repective State Governments on petrol and diesel in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are given in Statement (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.